preparatory studies for the Rail component and some studies for road component. They had also agreed in principle to fund MUTP-II as decided after the studies were completed. Though they had earlier stated in regard to funding of project preparatory studies that they were left with no option but to drop the project in its present form, they had also stated at the same time that the Bank would be willing to consider Bank assistance where, after a review by the parties, viz. Indian Railways and the Government of Maharashtra, projects could be developed where there would be an upfront commitment by the concerned parties and a clear institutional implementation capability.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Power Audit

1445. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of states which have implemented the policy declaration of Union Government in regard to making power audit compulsory;

(b) whether the States are moving very slow in regard to compulsory power audit;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether the Government have issued any direction to the State Governments to expedite these power audit; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (e) Four States viz., Kerala, West Bengal, Delhi and Tamil Nadu have made energy audit mandatory for specified category of industrial consumers. The Government of India has requested the other States/Union Territories also to consider issuing similar orders.

[English]

Start of Konkan Railway Trains from Dadar Station

1446. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :
SHRI RAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a delegation has met the Government for starting Konkan Railway Trains from Dadar Station; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Representations have been received for extension of KR-0111/KR-0112 Kurla-Sawantwadi Express upto Dadar. The same has been examined but not found feasible operationally due to terminal constraints at Dadar.

Postal Service in Assam

1447. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Departmental Sub-Post Offices and Extra-Departmental Branch Post Offices sanctioned and set up in the Assam Postal Circle during the Eighth five year plan;

(b) whether some of the sanctioned Post Offices have not been set up during the Eighth Plan period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are aware that services in the rural Post Offices and Telegraph Offices required improvement; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) Sixty three Extra-Departmental Branch Post Offices were sanctioned and opened in the Assam Postal Circle during the Eighth Five Year Plan. Information regarding departmental sub post offices sanctioned and opened is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir, Mail lines are being modernised and multi purpose Counter Machines are being installed in some Rural Departmental Sub Post Offices.

Telegraph: The performance of telegraph service provided in Assam is satisfactory as the quality of service in terms of percentage of telegrams delivered within 12 daylight hours has constantly improved during last three years from 90.54% in 1994-95 to 91.91% in 1995-96 and to 92.83% in 1996-97.

However, improvement in quality of telegraph service is a constant endeavour and the targets are revised every year for higher achievements. The performance of the service is monitored and reviewed at various levels for improvement in the quality of service.

[Translation]

New Railway Lines in Bihar

1448. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to lay new railway lines in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;